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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

The American Association of Law Libraries met in annual conference at Saratoga Springs, July 2 and 3, 1918. As was to be expected, the attendance was small, limited in the main to those members living in New York and near-by states. Two separate sessions were held, and one joint session with the National Association of State Libraries. Addresses were delivered as follows:

President's address: Edward H. Redstone, librarian, Social Law Library, Boston, Mass.; Workings of the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention, Lawrence B. Evans, state librarian, Massachusetts; The effect of the world war on Anglo-American legal literature, Frederick C. Hicks, law librarian, Columbia University; A brief survey of special legislation, Frank E. Chipman, president, The Boston Book Company; Editing the New York session laws, John T. Fitzpatrick, law librarian, New York State Library.

These papers will all appear in future numbers of the *Law Library Journal*, hence no attempt will be made to review them here.

Committee reports of vital interest to members of the Association were delivered by the chairmen. Mr. Small as chairman of the Committee on Legal Bibliography brought us the welcome news that a check list of State Bar Association reports

is being prepared by an Iowa librarian, and that President Redstone has a bibliography of legal periodicals in the process of compilation. Changes in price and form of the Index were the chief topics touched upon in the report of the Committee on Index to Legal Periodicals and *Law Library Journal*. These points were discussed thoroughly by the members but the final decision was that the committee should be continued with power to act in extending the Index in any feasible way.

The third session was made interesting by a talk from Mrs. Margaret Klingelsmith of the University of Pennsylvania Law Library, on problems of law cataloging, and by an impromptu talk from Mr. Ferguson, the newly elected president of the National Association of State Libraries, on his work as state librarian of California.

The Nominating Committee made the following report of officers for the year 1918-1919: President: Edward H. Redstone, Social Law Library, Boston; first vice-president: John T. Fitzpatrick, New York State Library, Albany; second vice-president: Agnes Wright, Wyoming State Library, Cheyenne; secretary: Elizabeth B. Steere, Law Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; treasurer: Anna M. Ryan, Buffalo Law Library, Buffalo.

Executive Committee: George S. Godard, E. A. Feazel, John P. Dillard.

LEAGUE OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONS

The first session of the League of Library Commissions was held on the afternoon of July 3, with Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl, president, in the chair.

The meeting was made notable by the reappearance after twelve years of Dr. Melvil Dewey at an A. L. A. convention. The audience showed their esteem by rising to greet Dr. Dewey with hearty applause. Dr. Dewey spoke of the present war conditions with a spirit of optimism, showing the

great opportunity of the public library in a state of society in which democracy will come to its own. To him it seems that among the many things libraries can do, the greatest service is to aid the movement for simplified spelling. As a firm conviction, he repeated the assertion of the philologist Grimm, that the greatest obstacle in the way of English linguistic domination of the world, is the absurd and unscientific spelling of the English language. To